

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraphs [0001] to [0004] with the following amended paragraphs.

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of ~~application of US serial number not yet known~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/805,290, filed on March 22, 2004, now abandoned, which is a continuation of ~~US serial number~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/875,143, filed on June 7, 2001, ~~(issued as US patent number~~ now U.S. Patent No. 6,711,516[()]], which is a continuation-in-part of ~~application US serial number~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/773,495, filed on February 2, 2001, ~~(abandoned)~~, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of ~~US serial number~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/697,679, filed on October 27, 2000, ~~(abandoned)~~, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of ~~US serial number~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/447,215, filed on November 23, 1999, ~~(issued as US patent number~~ now U.S. Patent No. 6,470,279[()]].

[0002] This application is also a continuation-in-part of ~~[[US]]~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/319,492, filed on ~~July 3~~ March 7, 2003, now U.S. Patent No. 7,157,282, which is a continuation-in-part ~~application of US serial number~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 0/023,869, filed December 21, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,828,152.

[0003] This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/136,329, filed on May 2, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,949,384, which is a continuation-in-part of ~~US serial number~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/023,869, filed on December 21, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,828,152.

[0004] This application is also a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/042,258, filed on January 11, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,841,132, which is a continuation-in-part of ~~US serial number~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/958,933, filed on January 23, 2002, ~~(issue as US patent number~~ now U.S. Patent No.

6,582,964[[]]], which is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/CA00/00549, filed May 11, 2000.

Please replace paragraph [0103] with the following amended paragraph.

[0103] The containment wall may comprise a sealing member on its upper surface (708). The sealing member may be an O-ring, or a pliable material integral with the containment wall. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the sample well contains one or more openings or grooves and an overflow ring for collecting excess sample, as closing the cover plate squeezes out excess sample. Preferably, the cover plate is attached to the tab so that the sample proximate the cover plate hinge makes contact with the cover plate first, and as the cover plate closes, excess sample is squeezed out through the two grooves and into the overflow ring. Other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description. It should be understood, however, that the detailed description and the specific examples while indicating preferred embodiments of the sample tab are given by way of illustration only. Various designs of sample tabs are described in US patent application 10/042,258; (Publication Number 2002-0110496 A1, now U.S. Patent No. 6,841,132; Samsoondar; the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference).

Please replace paragraph [0137] with the following amended paragraph.

[0137] Optionally, the sample tab may comprise a locking member to lock cover plate (702) to the base plate (718). The locking member may comprise a portion of the cover plate, base plate or both. Further, the locking member may reversibly or irreversibly lock the cover to the base plate. Any locking member known in the art may be employed with the sample tab of the present invention, for example, but not limited to those as shown in US Patent Application No.10/042,258 (Publication Number 2002-0110496 A1, now U.S. Patent No. 6,841,132; Samsoondar; the contents of which are incorporated by reference). The use of a containment wall ensures that the sample is retained within the sample tab and reduces contamination between samples. Furthermore, by locking the cover plate of the sample tab in a closed position, the sample tab may be readily disposed of after use without sample leakage, or the sample tab may be used in a

vertical position, for example within a cuvette holder adapted for use within spectroscopic apparatus.

Please replace paragraph [0186] with the following amended paragraph.

[0186] US Patent Application No. 10/136,329 (Publication Number 2003-0138960 A1, now U.S. Patent No. 6,949,384; Samsoondar; which are incorporated herein by reference), describes a method of monitoring the degradation of Hb-based blood substitutes by monitoring the production of the Met-Hb derivative of the Hb-based blood substitutes. The application teaches that the sample can be whole blood, serum, plasma, or a body part from the patient infused with the blood substitute. The same method can also be used to monitor degradation of stock Hb-based blood substitutes. By a "Stock Hb-based blood substitute," it is meant a manufactured Hb-based blood substitute that is ready for use, for example, which should not be considered limiting in any way, for infusion by a patient. A method for correcting the measurement of Tot Hb (used as an indicator of hemolysis in serum and plasma), for the presence of Met-Hb is disclosed in [[US]]U.S. Patent No. 6,689,612 (Samsoondar; which ~~are~~ is incorporated herein by reference).